



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION I

J. F. KENNEDY FEDERAL BUILDING, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02203

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May 30, 1986

North Beverly Environmental
Action Committee
P.O. Box 8
Wenham, Massachusetts 01984

Dear North Beverly Environmental
Action Committee Members:

The following comments are in response to your letter dated April 2, 1986, to my office. The hazardous waste problem in North Beverly consists of three known sites plus the potential of other unknown sites. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Quality Engineering (MA DEQE) has taken an enforcement lead under 21E (Massachusetts Superfund law) and provided EPA with the following information for each site.

1. Airport Septic Systems located off Airport Road was first discovered on March 31, 1985. Comdel, a local business dumped small quantities of halogenated solvents down into their septic system until the MA DEQE recently corrected this practice. The extent of contamination has not been determined.
2. Casco Chemical located off Henderson Road was first discovered on December 1, 1984. The Department of Defense operated a NIKE Missile Base Facility at this site until Casco Chemical leased the property for approximately 20 years from the City until 1985. Currently this property is part of Beverly Airport. The MA DEQE found a 4-5,000 gallon underground storage tank on the site filled with oil and water. Samples collected downstream detected 200ppb of benzene, toluene and xylene (constituents of petroleum products). The MA DEQE has requested this tank be removed and has contacted both the Dept. of Defense and City of Beverly for immediate action. The extent of contamination has not been determined.
3. Vitali Site located off Henderson Road was first discovered on April 11, 1985. The MA DEQE sent an Order to Mr. Vitali on April 4, 1986, to conduct a site assessment and evaluate known underground storage tanks. The site is covered with large quantities of coal fly ash. Fly ash is a by-product of incineration and was disposed on site by New England Power Company of Salem, Massachusetts.

As shown above, earlier inspections by the State indicate fly ash and petroleum products to be the two major contaminants found at these sites. At all three sites, contaminants leach into the aquifer and/or flow to a tributary that feeds Wenham Lake, the water supply for Beverly and Salem.

The MA DEQE has enforcement action underway at each site. The MA DEQE collected water samples the week of April 7, 1986, for conventional, inorganic and volatile pollutants from the tributary downgradient from these sites. The State contact is Steve Johnson ((617) 935-2160), who can provide analytical results as soon as they are available.

EPA has reviewed information submitted by the State and will pursue an investigation cooperatively with the MA DEQE, including the possibility, of a preliminary assessment/site inspection. If you have any questions or comments concerning this letter please contact Steve Serian of my staff at (617) 223-1963.

Sincerely,

Paul Kough Acting

Michael R. Deland
Regional Administrator